

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10-20, 22-31 and 33 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,963,122 to Pater et al. (hereinafter "Pater et al."). Claims 8, 9 and 32 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Pater et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,270,236 to Angeletti et al. (hereinafter "Angeletti et al."). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Pater et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,995,738 to Rowley et al. (hereinafter "Rowley et al."). Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly define the present invention over the cited prior art.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to specify an access arrangement, enabling placing items into the container or removing items from the container, the access arrangement providing access by means of an uppermost portion of the container and an access permitting end portion of the container and further comprising a movable side panel proximate said access permitting end portion of the container; said side panel being movable to render open a corner of the container at said access permitting end portion of the container. None of the cited art either discloses or suggests a container as defined in claim 1 having all the features of amended claim 1 and including the access arrangement as now defined in amended claim 1.

The primary reference to Pater et al. describes an article shipping bin with an ingress end 32 that is accessible by unlocking a T-shaped member 156 from an

interlocked configuration with posts 164 where studs 160 of the T-shaped member interlock with grooves 162 in the posts. See FIG. 2 and the accompanying text of col. 13, lines 50-55. In contrast, the present invention employs an "access arrangement providing access by means of an uppermost portion of the container and an access permitting end portion of the container" and "a movable side panel proximate said access permitting end portion of the container; said side panel being movable to render open a corner of the container at said access permitting end portion of the container."

The secondary references to Angeletti et al. and Rowley et al. do not remedy the shortcomings of Pater et al.

Advantageously, the features of amended claim 1 make the container as now defined, particularly suitable for use in placing irregular shape sheet items into a container and also enabling convenient removal therefrom. This unique and beneficial combination of features is referred to on page 4, lines 20 – 25 and page 7, lines 19 – 20 of the application as originally filed. More particularly, the combination of technical features specified enables items such as glass sheets or windscreens (or other items) to be secured in the container, using the removable upright restraint, with a convenient means of access to load or unload the container by the access permitting end portion and the removable side panel to open the end corner of the container. These advantages are not afforded by the cited prior art.

For these reasons, amended claim 1 is clearly patentable over the cited prior art.

The dependent claims are patentable over the cited prior art for those reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1 from which they respectively depend, and for reciting additional features that are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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